

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An image collection apparatus comprising:

an image acquisition unit which acquires an image:

an event detection unit which detects an event based on the image;

an event data creation unit which creates event data indicative of at least a generation time and contents of the event detected by said event detection unit;

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a macro event definition unit which defines a macro event, including ~~a related event group~~ at least a first event and a last event related to each other, and having a time width, equivalent to a range between a beginning of the at least first event to an end of the last event, by using the generation time and contents of the event;

a macro event data creation unit which creates macro event data by ~~structurizing~~ structuring the at least first event and the last event from a plurality of event data generated by said event data creation unit based on definition contents of the macro event defined by said macro event definition unit allowing dependent storage and retrieval of the at least first event and the last event;

an image recording unit which records an image of a macro event corresponding to the macro event data;

a retrieval unit which retrieves a desirable macro event based on the macro event data; and

a display unit which acquires at least an image of the macro event retrieved by said retrieval unit from said image recording unit and displays the image.

2. (Original) The image collection apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a temporary storage unit which temporarily stores the image acquired by said image acquisition unit,

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cont* wherein said image recording unit extracts and records an image related to an event detected by said event detection unit from the image temporarily stored by said temporary storage unit.

3. (Original) The image collection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said macro event definition unit carries out definition including repetition of a predetermined event in a series of events constituting the macro event.

4. (Original) The image collection apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an image summary unit which selects an image in a predetermined portion of the image of the macro event and summarizes the image of the macro event,

wherein said image recording unit records the image of the

macro event summarized by said image summary unit.

5. (Original) The image collection apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an image summary unit which selects an image in a predetermined portion of the image of the macro event, periodically acquires a static image from a non-selected image of the macro event and connects the selected image with the static image on a time basis, thereby summarizing the image of the macro event, said image recording unit recording the image of the macro event summarized by said image summary unit.

6. (Original) The image collection apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a measurement unit which measures data related to the image; and

a measured data storage unit which stores the measured data acquired by said measurement unit in relation to the macro event,


wherein said display unit displays the image of the macro event and displays the measured data related to the macro event.

7. (Original) The image collection apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of image acquisition devices,

wherein said image recording unit selects one of said image acquisition units corresponding to the image of the macro event

from a plurality of images input from said image acquisition units and records, as the image of the macro event, the image input from said selected image acquisition unit.

8. (Original) The image collection apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an analysis unit which carries out a predetermined analysis processing based on at least the image of the macro event.

 9. (Currently Amended) An image collection method comprising:
an acquiring step of acquiring an image and detecting an event;

an event data creating step of creating event data indicative of at least a generation time and contents of the event detected at said acquiring step;

a macro event data creating step of creating macro event data by ~~structurizing~~ structuring at least a first event and a last event related to each other from a plurality of event data generated by said event data generation unit and having a time width, equivalent to a range between a beginning of the at least first event to an end of the last event, allowing dependent storage and retrieval of the at least first event and the last event;

an image recording step of recording an image of a macro event

corresponding to the macro event data;

a retrieving step of retrieving a desirable macro event based on the macro event data; and

a displaying step of acquiring and displaying at least the image of the macro event retrieved at said retrieving step.

10. (Original) The image collection method according to claim 9, further comprising a temporary storing step of temporarily storing the image acquired at said acquiring step,

wherein in said image recording step an image related to an event detected at said acquiring step is extracted from the image temporarily stored at said temporary storing step and recorded.

11. (Original) The image collection method according to claim 9, wherein said macro event creating step creates macro event data based on the macro event definition contents defined including repetition of a predetermined event in a series of events constituting the macro event.

12. (Original) The image collection method according to claim 9, further comprising an image summarizing step of selecting an image in a predetermined portion of the image of the macro event and summarizing the image of the macro event, said image recording step

recording the image of the macro event summarized at said image summarizing step.

13. (Original) The image collection method according to claim 9, further comprising an image summarizing step of selecting an image in a predetermined portion of the image of the macro event, periodically acquiring a static image from a non-selected image of the macro event and connecting the selected image with the static image on a time basis; thereby summarizing the image of the macro event, said image recording step recording the image of the macro event summarized at said image summarizing step.

*By
and*
14. (Original) The image collection method according to claim 9, further comprising:

a measuring step of measuring data related to the image; and
a measured data storing step of storing the measured data acquired at said measuring step in relation to the macro event,
said displaying step displaying the image of the macro event and displaying the measured data related to the macro event.

15. (Original) The image collection method according to claim 9, wherein said image recording step selects one of the images corresponding to the image of the macro event from a plurality of

input images and records the selected image as the image of the macro event.

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16. (Original) The image collection method according to claim 9, further comprising an analyzing step of carrying out a predetermined analysis processing based on at least the image of the macro event.

Claims 17-19 (Canceled)
